

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17TH MARCH 2014 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman),
Councillor J. W. Burgess,
Councillor J. W. Cornwall,
Councillor Miss S. Farr,
Councillor P. Jones,
Councillor Miss J. P. Morris,
Councillor A. J. Mould,
Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham,
Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier,
Councillor A. E. Wilson,
Councillor B. Yates.

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor W. Day,
Residents (5),
Mrs. C. J. Snape (Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs. C. R. Hopley and Councillor F. J. Hopley

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Item	Member declaring interest	Nature of interest
SCC Rights of Way Issues	Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham	Personal – Daughter employed by SCC in the Rights of Way Department.
SCC Highway Issues Tesco	Councillor P. Jones	Personal – SCC Highway Officer Mary Anne Raftery personal friend. Personal – employee of Tesco.
Foxfield Steam Railway	Councillor A. J. Mould	Personal – volunteer at Foxfield Railway.

3. OPEN SESSION.

Standing Orders were suspended.

3.1 Police Update:

PCSO Adam Charlesworth reported that anti social behaviour for his area was down 50% for the period January-March 2014 compared to the same period in 2013 with Staffordshire Moorlands area down 5%. There were 12 incidents reported between this period, seven of which have been identified as being carried out by the same group. Parents of the juveniles in this group have been visited and the police are also working with the District Council and housing association as tenancy agreements state that action will be taken against families who cause anti social behaviour. Two incidents were neighbour disputes and three were related to disagreements. Crime figures for theft, burglaries etc. were the same with Staffordshire Moorlands area showing an increase of 5%.

PC Alex Gould and PC Mark Warrilow have moved to Leek policing area and PC Dave Stubbs has joined the local policing team.

Details of forthcoming Police Surgeries have been advertised on the notice boards and are also on the Parish Council's web site.

In response to questions raised PCSO Adam Charlesworth said that:

- There have been no issues with regard to air guns in the area.
- No issues have been reported regarding motorbikes causing a nuisance and Councillors and residents were asked to report concerns immediately to the 101 police number to enable a police officer to be deployed when offences were actually taking place. He added that this also includes vehicles when they are causing an obstruction.

3.2 Residents Issues.

3.2.1 Foxfield Steam Railway.

Mr. Mark Wagstaff, Director at Foxfield Steam Railway provided Councillors with further information regarding events and proposals for 2014.

A resident's discount scheme will again operate in 2014.

Foxfield will be working with Blythe Bridge Library, Stoke-on-Trent Archives and Staffordshire University with regard to a World War 1 display.

There will be a live music event on August 23rd from 3.00pm to 10.00pm

A beer festival with a 60/70/80/90's and 'naughties' theme will take place in August 2014.

Planning permission is being sought for permanent pitches for five caravans.

3.2.2 Barlstone Avenue, Blythe Bridge – subject: Cold Calling Sign.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said she would collect the sign and arrange to have it re-instated.

3.2.3 Footpath 5a linking Uttoxeter Road to Jasmine Close, Blythe Bridge – subject: Damaged wooden fence.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that Staffordshire County Council Rights of Way Department has written to the owner of the fence.

3.2.4 Jubilee Gardens, Blythe Bridge – subject: Provision of waste bin.

The clerk said that she would get an update from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Environment Services. (Note: A waste bin has now been installed).

3.2.5 Accidents/Closure of the A50 – subject: Diverted traffic impacting heavily on the congestion on Uttoxeter Road and spine roads in Blythe Bridge to the extent that Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook become completely gridlocked.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that she has already spoken with County Councillor W. Day regarding several highway issues and a site meeting is being arranged with Staffordshire County Council highway officers.

3.3 County Council Report.

County Councillor W. Day gave the following report.

The Neighbourhood Highway Team will be working in the Parish week commencing 14th April, 2014.

The system for reporting and monitoring work on potholes and drainage issues is not working efficiently and Staffordshire County Council is taking steps to improve this.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

4. INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING ‘OUTSIDE’ MEETINGS.

Councillor J. W. Burgess reported that at the last SPCA Executive meeting he was advised that a consultant is being employed to try and push for a HS2 link in Stoke-on-Trent.

He also said that he has been nominated as a member of the CPRE committee but as yet has not been invited to any meetings and he believed there was a meeting on Wednesday 19th March.

The clerk was asked to liaise with SPCA to ensure that CPRE had Councillor Burgess’s contact details.

5. DRAFT MINUTES OF: Council Meeting of 17th February 2014.

RESOLVED:

- **To approve and sign the minutes.**

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

6.1 Minutes dated 17th February 2014 – Page 119 – agenda item 11.3 – Butchers Arms.

The following response from PCSO Jonathan Staples was noted:

“I have been in to see the licensee and he agrees that there is an issue. He has been very understanding and he has promised to have some signs made asking customers not to park on the footpath and he will attach them to the small fence adjacent to the pavement. He is also going to put a notice up inside the pub to make the locals aware of the issue. The licensee has a meeting with his area manager and is going to ask for funding to improve his car park by using the grassed off area to the rear of the premises. He is very keen to help and to assist in solving this issue as soon as possible and is open to any suggestions.”

The clerk was asked to respond to the email to see if the licensee of the Butchers Arms would be prepared to contribute towards the cost of installing bollards on the footway, providing Staffordshire County Council approved the scheme.

- 6.2 Minutes dated 17th February 2014 – Page 114 – agenda item 7.1 – Tater Lane – installation of bollard.

The following response from Victoria Ellis, Community Projects Officer, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council was noted:

“I have already spoken with Staffordshire County Council Officer Rob Steele about this suggestion, but as a bollard would restrict access to the vehicle turning point it would be very unlikely to be approved. I will ask Rob Steele to have another think at what we could do, as I agree unless this area is made inaccessible we will always have problems.”

- 6.3 Minutes dated 17th February 2014 – Page 113 – agenda item 3.1.6 – delivery vehicles to Tesco parking dangerously and causing an obstruction.

The following response from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council planning/enforcement officers was noted:

“I refer to your recent concerns received on 25.02.14. You have alleged that delivery vehicles are off loading from the highway. Your complaint has been investigated and enquiries have been made with the owner of the above address. The Council has now given your complaint consideration and is in the position to provide you with the following response. On this occasion the Council has decided to take no further action in respect of your allegation. This is because we have spoken to the management of the above premises and given them a strong warning that any further breach of condition 3 of planning permission 12/00603/FUL would result in enforcement action and the Council has been assured that this matter will be addressed and should see this issue resolved. Could I ask that if you are informed of any future incidents regarding deliveries the date and time of the occurrence would be very much appreciated. Thank you for bringing your concerns to the Council’s attention. If there are any significant changes in circumstances you may notify the Council and officers may review your case. However, at this present time your complaint is closed for the reasons given above.”

It was also noted that G4 security vehicles are causing an obstruction by parking on the footway when servicing the ATM machine.

The clerk was asked to bring this matter to the attention of Staffordshire County Council highway officers and County Councillor W. Day.

- 6.4 Minutes dated 17th February 2014 – Page 112 – agenda item 3.1.2 – Shower system in Changing Rooms.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that she has spoken to officers at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council regarding the shower system used in the changing rooms at Birchall Playing Fields and been told that they are so efficient that the same system has also been installed at Thorley Drive changing rooms.

- 6.5 Minutes dated 17th February 2014 – Page 114 – agenda item 8.1 – Werrington Young Persons Support Group – Donation.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton advised that a letter of thanks has been received from the above.

7. CLERK'S REPORT.

- 7.1 Agenda enclosures, correspondence outgoing and emails not detailed as separate agenda items were noted.

- 7.2 Meetings.

- Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Assembly – 20th March 2014 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, Moorlands House, Leek.

- 7.3 The following circulation material was received and noted:

- Rural Services Network Online (Note: Newsletters available on: <http://www.rsnonline.org.uk/news>).
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust – November 2013 E-News.
- Parish Online Newsletter.
- Clerks & Councils Direct – March issue.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

- 8.1 Community Council of Staffordshire – subject: Good Neighbour Schemes, Staffordshire – Questionnaire to gauge the level of interest.

The clerk was requested to complete the questionnaire advising that Homelink were already very active in the Parish. Councillor P. Jones added that Tesco, Meir Park run a Community Champion scheme in the area.

- 8.2 Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Assembly – subject: Parish Assembly meeting.

Agenda and papers for the above meeting were received and noted.

- 8.3 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Achieving Excellence for Young People consultation.

It was noted that an acknowledgement to Council's letter re the above has been received advising that Forsbrook Parish Council's views will be fed into the consultation and considered by Cabinet when they make a decision on the 19th March 2014.

- 8.4 Owl Online Watch – subject: Crime Incidents/Alerts.

Details of the above were noted.

- 8.5 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Watchdog Alerts.

Details of the latest Scams/Warnings in the area were noted.

- 8.6 Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association – subject: Weekly Updates/NALC Briefings on various issues.

The above documents were noted.

- 8.7 To receive and note general correspondence and to agree action as required.

General:

There was no general correspondence to note.

Email Exchanges:

Staffordshire Police
Staffordshire County Council (Rights of Way)

Neville Tyler (Poppy Appeal Organiser)
Blythe Bridge Scout Group
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council –
Planning Enforcement Department

Victoria Tufail, West Midlands Ambulance
Service

David Shaw, Werrington Young Persons
Support Group
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Subject:

Subject:

Alert to suspicious activities in Blythe Bridge.
Vandalised fence – footpath 5a.

Note: SCC is writing to the owner of the
fence.

Replacement organiser required.
Donation details.

Tesco delivery vehicles (reference number
provided of SMC/2014/00133).

Future Defib Courses.

Donation.

Farmers mess on highway.

Environment Issues.

Dog fouling – footpath 4a.

Dog fouling – Uttoxeter Road, footpath from
Uttoxeter Road to Elmwood Drive and
Cheadle Road.

Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
(As Amended). Notice of Consultation on
Draft Statement of Community Involvement
(SCI) – 17th March to 28th April 2014.
Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton gave
details on where documents were available to
view and how to make comments.

Staffordshire County Council

Highway Defect Reports:

Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge – speed sign damaged;

Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge – street light cover missing;

Dilhorne Road, Forsbrook – grass verges damaged;

Blythe Bridge Road, Blythe Bridge – soil bank collapsing;

Caverswall Old Road/Caverswall Road, Forsbrook – damaged tree branches overhanging highway.

Also reminder re issues raised on 10.02.14 as no incident report references received. (Note: not logged until phone call to Staffordshire County Council Highways on 3rd March 2014).

Staffordshire County Council Officer Rob Steele Recent highway defect reports not logged as above.

County Council W. Day

Recent highway defect reports not logged as above.

Note: All correspondence/documents were available to view on the evening of the Council Meeting or by prior arrangement with the clerk.

9. PLANNING.

9.1 Planning Applications:

Members of Council discussed the following planning application proposals and resolved to comment as detailed.

SMD/2014/0011 - land off Draycott Old Road, Forsbrook – proposal to put down an all weather surface for the purpose of horse riding in existing field.

RESOLVED:

- **To raise no concerns providing the planning officer is satisfied that the proposals are acceptable in green belt and they will not affect natural surface water drainage.**

DET/2014/0004 – land to the south side of Delphouse Road, Boundary – proposed field track.

RESOLVED:

- **To point out that the planning proposals fall mainly in the area of Cheadle Town Council but to raise no concerns with regard to the area which lies in the Parish of Forsbrook providing the proposals are acceptable in this green belt location.**

SMD/2014/0026 – 12 Blythe Mount Park, Blythe Bridge – proposed 2-storey extension to front of existing detached residence and single storey orangery to rear.

RESOLVED:

- **To raise no concerns providing the scale and design are in keeping and there is no adverse effect on the privacy of adjacent neighbours.**

NHT/2014/0003 – 92 Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge – single storey rear extension.

RESOLVED:

- **To raise no concerns providing the scale and design are in keeping and there is no adverse effect on the privacy of adjacent neighbours.**

9.2 Planning Approvals:

The following planning approvals were noted:

SMD/2013/1154 – The Coppice, Cheadle Road, Blythe Bridge – application for removal/variation of Condition 3 on planning application 00959/FUL.

SMD/2013/1199 – 56 Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – reserved matters for which approval is being sought – appearance, landscaping and scale for application 00847/OUT.

SMD/2013/1155 – 9 Blythe Road, Forsbrook – proposed new detached dwelling on side garden area of existing house.

9.3 Planning Refusals:

The following planning refusal was noted.

SMD/2013/1166 – 1 Springfield Drive, Forsbrook – single storey extension to semi detached house for garage and shower room.

Reasons:

“The application site is located within the Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Development Boundary. Within such areas extensions to domestic properties can often be supported subject to all other material planning considerations being satisfied. Extension to dwellings should be of a good design in their own right and garages should be subordinate and modest in their size. Good design is particularly important for developments within visually prominent locations such as this in order to avoid visual harm to the street scene. By reason of its excessive footprint size and overall bulk, the proposed extension is unacceptable and would be an overlarge and disproportionate addition to this visually prominent dwelling. The addition would not relate well to the existing house or its surroundings of modestly sized dwellings. For these reasons the proposed development is contrary to Saved policy B13(a) of the Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan, adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance; Design Principles for Development in the Staffordshire Moorlands, policy DC1 of the Core Strategy (Revised Submission Document) and the national Planning Policy Framework including Chapter 7: Requiring Good Design.”

9.4 Planning matters.

No planning related issues were raised.

10. CEMETERY:

10.1 Cemetery Report.

Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee said she had no matters to report.

10.2 Cemetery Issues.

No cemetery issues were raised.

11. ENVIRONMENT:

11.1 Environment Report.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman of the Environment Committee) said she had no matters to report.

11.2 Environment Issues.

Issue	Action
Butchers Arms (and other food/drink establishments) Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – parking issues.	To continue to monitor the situation and report to the police. To ask Staffordshire County Council to consider bollards on the footway adjacent to the Butchers Arms.
Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge – street lamp cover loose.	Clerk to again report to Staffordshire County Council Highway Defects Department.
Crossfield Avenue, Blythe Bridge – hole left after highway work.	Monitor as it may be the case that another highway team finishes the repair work.
Well Street Forsbrook – footbridge damaged by vandals.	It was noted that the wooden temporary structure is to be removed.
Caverswall Old Road, Forsbrook – litter.	Clerk to report to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Environment Services.
Cheadle Road/Bridgwood Road junction – overgrown hedge obstructing visibility when egressing Bridgwood Road.	Report to Staffordshire County Council Highway Defects Department.
Recreation ground, Blythe Bridge – provision of seats.	Clerk to investigate whether there is sufficient room adjacent to the climbing mast to install a seat.
Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – between Chandri Cottage and the Uttoxeter/Blythe Bridge roundabout – litter.	Report to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Environment Services.
Elmwood Drive, Blythe Bridge – footbridge – land movement has made it difficult to navigate with a wheelchair/motorised scooter.	Report to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (Les Latham).

12. FINANCE:

12.1 Bank balance.

It was noted that the bank balance as at 28th February 2014 was:

Community Direct Account	109556.91
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12.2 March 2014 accounts.

The following cheques were presented for payment.

Cheque No.	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
402328	Town & Country Services	610.00	122.00	732.00
402329	SMDC	307.20	61.44	368.64
402330	Blythe Bridge & Forsbrook V.H.	214.25		214.25
402331	Mrs. G. Burton	250.00		250.00
402332	Mrs. Christine J. Snape	1021.40		1021.40
402333	Mrs. Christine J. Snape	284.31	31.60	315.91
402334	HM Revenue & Customs	813.70		813.70
DD	Eon.	50.00		50.00
DD	British Telecom	99.65	19.94	119.59
Total		3650.51	234.98	3885.49

RESOLVED:

- **To approve payment of March 2014 accounts.**

12.3 Unity Trust Bank – subject: Transfer of monies.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton provided members with background information regarding the financial assets of Forsbrook Parish Council.

The Council's internal auditor has suggested that the Parish Council should not hold all its monies in one bank account. The current account is with the Co-operative Bank plc.

The clerk has researched suitable banks and the Unity Trust Bank is a small bank based in Birmingham. The intention is to continue with the Co-operative Bank for the day to day running of Council's affairs but to transfer £75000 into the Unity Trust Bank. The account will be an interest bearing internet account but monies can be paid in at any Co-operative Bank, local Post Office or high street bank. It is proposed that account signatories (3) will be the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillor responsible for Finances. The remaining ten Councillors will need to be listed as key account parties.

RESOLVED:

- **To open an account with the Unity Trust Bank and to transfer £75000 from the Co-operative Bank plc.**

The meeting concluded at 8.50pm.

Clerk to the Council

Chairman